/667 cont./

125 such as caste and the degree of kinship of each actual union [8].
[143] In this region the person questioned, mostly in public, did
[565] not make any difficulty about declaring to which caste he be-
[124] longed. Moreover, this is known by all the inhabitants of the village and has such social importance that if one asks a child in the street, "Who are you?" he replies, "I am of such and such a caste." As for the degree of kinship of the spouses, a previous study among the sedentary Peul of the Fouta Djallon [9] has shown that it was possible to obtain this without a cumbersome demographic investigation; the individuals are well acquainted with the fact in regions where consanguineous unions are the custom.

The investigator asks whether or not the woman is married to a near relative, and, in the case of an affirmative answer, if the spouses have the same grandfather or grandmother (fourth degree) or in what other way they are related. A total number of 6,208 married women were questioned in this manner, and in order to correct possible errors of observation in such a sample, a control was established in a subsample of 382 sedentary couples by noting the names of the parents, grandparents, and eventually great-grandparents. At this stage there is uncertainty, but this can be removed only by laboriously working out genealogies. That is why the proportion of marriages to the sixth degree, which we indicate below and which are beyond the kinship ties known with sufficient accuracy, are perhaps more important in reality.

563 The ethnic groups. The region studied contains 341,000 inhabitants divided into five principal ethnic groups: Moors, Toucouleur [Tukuler], Peul, Saracolé [Sarakole], and Wolof (Table I). The ethnic groups are distinguished by such characteristics as the way of life, social structure, group consciousness,
[186] the name given them by other groups, and language, except for
[199] the Peul and the Toucouleur, who speak the same language,
[36] Poular. Aside from the Moors, the population is grouped in five port cities and 800 villages and communities.

[162] The Toucouleur form the largest aggregate (187,000 persons) and occupy the center of the region on the two rivers. The

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125 Before going into a detailed analysis, let us look briefly at the conditions under which the investigation was conducted. Actually there were two of them, the first by questionnaire with an investigator, the second by interviews conducted through the medium of an interpreter. [124] Since one of the aims was to examine carefully the repercussion of the housing conditions on the social reality, we divided the sample into two strata. The first includes the two districts of the Pépinière and the ICOTAF, which together contain the more important dwellings of durable construction and each of which forms a whole -- this is not the case for the district of the Police, still embryonic. (If we have not added the district of the T.P. of Cape Verde to this stratum as we had originally intended, it is because we were obliged to replace the three dwellings drawn by three others as a result of the ill-will of one of the persons responsible.) This drawing was made for 1/10th in order to obtain a sufficient number of replies. As for the /159/ second stratum, it included all the rest of the quarters, and a drawing of 1/20th sufficed. The sampling frame was furnished by the plan of the division into lots, the statistical unit being the parcel. Each parcel was given a number, and the drawing was done with the aid of a table of random numbers. The second stratum included all the parcels located on this side of the road of the Niayes, with the exception of some ten among them located farther along and already occupied, a total of 5,740, giving a sample of 287 parcels. The sampling frame for the stratum of the districts was made up from the data given by the Office de l'Habitat relating to the parcels which were supposed to be occupied at the time of the investigation. That made 500, hence 50 in the sample; in fact, of these 50 there were eight that were still vacant or not completely finished, leaving 42. As for the second phase of the investigation, we have been obliged, as a result of the insufficient resources at our disposal, to reduce the second stratum by drawing in the second stage two parcels for three out of the original sample. The number of the first, however, has remained intact.

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125 124 The questionnaire of the first investigation pertains to indispensable socio-demographic data and to housing conditions; as for the interviews, although permitting a definite framework, they were conducted in a very flexible way to give the interlocutor the maximum liberty of expression and thus to gather information on attitudes and opinions concerning family problems: education, marriage portion, marriage, polygamy, etc.

128 We shall not present here the complete record of this double investigation, but simply a certain number of results which give a somewhat more precise idea of the social reality at Pikine.

I. Demographic Elements

162 The total population of Pikine during the winter of 1960, not counting visitors and transients, comes to 28,780 inhabitants (1). The first stratum numbers 25,660 persons and the

1. A brief calculation of error shows that the population of Pikine has a 95% chance of being made up of between 26,286 and 31,374, the standard deviation being 1,247.

the second 3,120. This figure calls for the following remarks.

167 166 1) In winter the seasonal migrants who come to work at Dakar during the dry season have set out again for their homes /160/ in order to farm. Thus it is probable that the population of Pikine, like that of Dakar, is larger during the months from December to April (1).

1. It will suffice to refer to the results of the demographic investigation that took place in March 1961 to verify the magnitude of this event.

17: Mercier--18 S-5 (1953-1954) 1954 MS37 Senegal MS37
Dakar

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state of tension between certain sectors of each of the two populations that is much more obvious than it was a few years ago. New facts have intervened in this period (not to speak of the grasp of clearer political perception by certain African elements). The number of European (men and women) workers and subordinate employees has increased, and this coincides with a considerable extension of vocational instruction and general instruction (at all levels) among the Africans, resulting in a much greater frequency of competitive situations in the occupational and economic spheres (1).

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1. The study of unemployment in Dakar is very revealing. Besides the causes of unemployment which one could call classic, one more and more notices those that are due to this competitive situation.

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Such a glance shows how numerous, important, and entangled are the problems to be studied. A general publication will later give an account of the various investigations in progress. This account will permit one to place the problems that we shall bring up next. It will also permit one to understand the spirit in which our first inquiries were conducted.

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II

The information that we are going to give on the African family structure in the Dakar agglomeration is based, on the one hand, on documentation gathered at the time of the investigation by questionnaires, and, on the other hand, on facts confirmed through broader interviews and applying to a much more restricted number of families. These last have permitted us to observe in a more precise fashion the dynamic aspect of the problem.

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